

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011072
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER
NSC: PHENZE (SUBS)

-----019298 152235Z /75

O 152224Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011072

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PDIP, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: MOFA ATTACK ON PRESIDENT AND U.S. POLICY

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 214; B) ADDIS ABABA 215

1. IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT WAS
DESIGNED (BY SOVIETS?) TO PROVOKE A REACTION BY US WHICH
COULD THEN BE USED TO ACCELERATE THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF
U.S.-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE WE SHARE
EMBASSY VIEW THAT WE SHOULD PROTEST FORCEFULLY, WE BELIEVE
THAT TONE OF PROTEST SHOULD BE MORE ONE OF SORROW THAN
OF ANGER. WE PLAN TO CALL IN AMBASSADOR AYALEW MONDAY AND
YOU SHOULD MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
WE THINK YOU ARE PROBABLY RIGHT THAT DIRECT APPROACH TO
BERHANE BAYEH MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT OUR
UNFILTERED VIEWS REACH DIRG. OUR ONLY RESERVATION STEMS
FROM REPORTS THAT SUGGEST THAT HE MAY BE ONE OF THE HARD-
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LINERS WITH REGARD U.S. (ALTHOUGH THAT, OF COURSE, MAY
BE AN ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT FOR GOING TO HIM). YOU MAY USE
YOUR DISCRETION IN SELECTING RECIPIENT(S) OF PROTEST,
WHICH SHOULD CONTAIN FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) USG IS ASTOUNDED THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE SO WILDLY MIS-
INTERPRETED THE MILD, EVEN-HANDED STATEMENT MADE BY PRESI-

DENT CARTER IN THE COURSE OF HIS JANUARY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE. THE MOFA STATEMENT SEEMS TO BE THE WORK OF A PERSON OR PERSONS WHO DO NOT SHARE THE VIEW, WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO US AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, THAT ETHIOPIA DESIRES AN IMPROVED, NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. THAT ATTITUDE TOOK A TANGIBLE FORM WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR AYALEW, A GESTURE WHICH THE U.S. GREATLY APPRECIATED AND WHICH WE PLAN TO RECIPROCATATE SHORTLY. WE ARE ACCORDINGLY ENCOURAGED TO HOPE THE MOFA STATEMENT WAS DRAFTED AND RELEASED WITHOUT ADEQUATE CLEARANCE AND THAT IT DOES NOT, THEREFORE, REPRESENT THE CONSIDERED VIEWS OF THE RESPONSIBLE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES.

B) IN HIS STATEMENT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT, AS THE MOFA STATEMENT INDICATES, TILT TOWARD SOMALIA OR AGAINST ETHIOPIA. IF THERE WAS ANY SPECIFIC TARGET FOR HIS REMARKS IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION. WHAT DEEPLY DISTURBS THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE HORN, AS HE EMPHASIZED IN HIS REMARKS, IS THAT AFRICANS ARE KILLING AFRICANS. HE IS NOT CHOOSING SIDES BETWEEN THE CONTESTING PARTIES OR COMMENTING IN ANY WAY ON THE VALIDITY OF THE CASE PUT FORWARD BY EITHER. HE IS, HOWEVER, CRITICAL OF THE COUNTRY WHICH FIRST SUPPLIED SOMALIA WITH ARMS GREATLY IN EXCESS OF ANY LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE NEED,
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THEREBY ENCOURAGING THE USE OF THOSE ARMS AGAINST SOMALIA'S NEIGHBOR, AND THEN, AFTER THE KILLING STARTED, TURNED TO SUPPLY THE OTHER SIDE WITH VAST QUANTITIES OF ARMS THEREBY ENSURING THAT THE KILLING WOULD CONTINUE. THE U.S. SINCERELY BELIEVES THAT THERE IS NO MILITARY SOLUTION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER TO THE OGADEN PROBLEM, BUT THAT THE ONLY LASTING SOLUTION IS ONE WHICH IS ACHIEVED BY NEGOTIATION. ENCOURAGING RECOURSE TO ARMS UNDERMINES EFFORTS TO MEDIATE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS CONTINUING THE SUFFERING ON BOTH SIDES.

C) YOU SHOULD THEN CATEGORICALLY DENY THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT U.S. HAVING PUSHED SOMALIA TO INVADE ETHIOPIA AND ABOUT U.S. SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA DRAWING ON MATERIAL IN DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 14 PRESS STATEMENT.

D) IF ETHIOPIANS CITE AS EVIDENCE OF TILT TOWARD SOMALIA PRESIDENT'S MENTION OF HOPE THAT SOMALIS WOULD CALL FOR NEGOTIATION, YOU SHOULD OBSERVE THAT THAT REFERENCE JUST AS SUSCEPTIBLE OF INTERPRETATION AS TILT TOWARD ETHIOPIA. IT IMPLIES THAT SOMALIA, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR STARTING THE CONFLICT, IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENDING IT PEACEFULLY. IF THEY

RAISE PRESIDENT'S MENTION OF UN, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT
TREATMENT OF THE MATTER IN THE UN NEED NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE
WITH AN AFRICAN SOLUTION: A UNSC RESOLUTION WHICH PUT
THE WEIGHT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEHIND THE
MEDIATION EFFORTS OF THE OAU WOULD ON THE CONTRARY SUPPORT
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2. WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER TO MAKE PROTEST
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO:UNP:STESCUDERO

APPROVED BY: IO:TBROWN

S/S- O DCAMP

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R 210030Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2414

S E C R E T STATE 011072

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ADDIS ABABA FROM SECSTATE DTD 15 JAN 1978 QTE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780022-0598
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzwwg.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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Message ID: 259f63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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To: ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
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